ECLIPSE COMICS

mini-series

№ 5 of 6

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CHAMPIONS

CHAPTER 9--"CHILDREN OF VENGEANCE!" *featuring*—"THE ORIGIN OF FLARE!"

SHE IS *ROSE*; A SENSITIVE, A PSYCHIC, AND AN OCCULT INVESTIGATOR. AND EVEN THROUGH THE PSYCHIC *CHILL* THAT NORMALLY PERVADES THE MANSION OF DOCTOR ARCANE, ROSE SENSES SOMETHING OMINOUS BUILDING IN THE AIR.

FLARE! HAVE YOU SEEN MY OTHER GLOVE?

SO, AS TIRED AS SHE IS AFTER FIGHTING THE FORCES OF *DEMON* AND SPENDING THIRTY-SIX HOURS WITHOUT REST, HER TRAINING HAS TAKEN OVER. SHE HAS DRAGGED HERSELF OUT OF BED TO SEEK OUT THE SOURCE OF THIS DISRUPTION.

YOUR GLOVE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SLEEP.

THE *SOURCE* IS NOT HERE. BUT UNEASY FEELINGS TELL ROSE THIS *OTHER* WOMEN IS, SOMEHOW, INTIMATELY *CONNECTED* TO THE *SOURCE*, WHATEVER IT MAY BE.

THAT *STARTLES* HER, BECAUSE *THIS* WOMEN IS A CHAMPION, TOO, AND *SHOULD* BE ABOVE SUSPICION.

SO DID I. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING... *HEY!*

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THAT'S MY GLOVE!

SO? I HAVE A BROKEN ARM, IF YOU'LL REMEMBER, AND A CAST.

I WANTED TO TAKE A SHOWER. AND YOUR GLOVE IS WATER TIGHT.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MIND.

I SUPPOSE I DON'T. BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED.

I'M SORRY.

BUT IF IN FACT SHE IS *NOT* TO BE TRUSTED...WHAT THEN?

IT'S MY UPBRINGING, I'D SAY. I NEVER *HAD* TO ASK. WHAT WASN'T PROVIDED, WE SIMPLY TOOK. WE NEVER HAD TO LEARN MANNERS.

BUT I'M TRYING TO LEARN. I AM. AND I'M SORRY.

SO TELL ME ABOUT IT.

EH?

TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR 'UPBRINGING.' ABOUT YOUR 'FAMILY.' I WANT TO KNOW.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WITH THE MARKSMAN. THERE ISN'T THAT MUCH TO TELL.

TRY. IT MAY BE IMPORTANT.

BECAUSE OF THE *DEMON* CONNECTION?

YES.

ALL RIGHT. THERE WERE FOUR OF US, YOU UNDERSTAND. I WAS THE OLDEST, BUT NOT BY VERY MUCH. AND THEY TOLD ME I WAS THE MOST POWERFUL, AND RELIED ON ME TO KEEP THE OTHER THREE IN LINE.

"I DON'T THINK I *WAS* THE MOST POWERFUL, THOUGH. JUST THE OLDEST."

"THOMAS WAS THE YOUNGEST, AND THE STRONGEST! HE WAS *ALWAYS* TRYING TO IMPRESS OUR TEACHERS WITH HIS STRENGTH.

"AS IF THEY *NEEDED* TO BE IMPRESSED.

"MY SISTER *OLGA* WAS GIVEN *ELECTRICAL* POWERS THAT WORKED MUCH THE SAME WAY AS MINE.

"WHERE I CAN ABSORB AND GENERATE *LIGHT*, OLGA COULD DO THE SAME WITH *ELECTRICITY*!

"AND MY BROTHER *PHILIP*...OH, GODS, PHILIP WAS SO *BEAUTIFUL*! AND SO *FRIGHTENING*, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

"HE *MADE* ME LOVE HIM. AND WE WERE BARELY TWELVE YEARS OLD!

"BUT THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT OF COURSE. AND THEY TOOK HIM FROM ME. AND THEY SAID HE WOULD BE GIVEN TO DER TEUFEL FOR HIS SINS.

"AND I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN.

"IT WASN'T LONG AFTER PHILIP LEFT ME THAT THEY DECIDED I WAS TO BE MADE READY TO SERVE THEM.

"I AGED QUICKLY TO BEGIN WITH, ROSE. AND THEY *ACCELERATED* THAT.

"AND THEY SENT ME *OUT* INTO THE WORLD. AND THEY GET ME *FREE*! AND THEY TOLD ME TO *DESTROY* THE CHAMPIONS.

"AND THEY TOLD ME THAT *IF* I FAILED, I WOULD *SWIFTLY* AGE, AND I WOULD *SURELY* DIE!"

BUT THEY NEVER ACTUALLY HELD OUT THE *PROMISE* OF A CURE. AND IF MY LIFE IS TO BE SO SHORT, THEN I WILL MAKE THAT LIFE WORTHWHILE. DO YOU SEE?

I'LL BE *GOOD!*

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

BUT I DON'T WANT TO KILL.

AND THE MARKSMAN TRUSTS YOU.

AND GIANT *LOVES* ME.

SO YOU KEEP SAYING.

IT'S TRUE.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR BROTHER. WHAT WERE *PHILIP'S* POWERS? OR DID HE EVEN *HAVE* ANY?

OH, WE ALL HAD *POWERS!* WE WERE *CREATED* TO HAVE THEM. WE WERE THEIR "WUNDERKINDEN"-- THEIR *WONDER* CHILDREN.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEIR VENGEANCE FOR THEM TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. BUT I NEVER BOUGHT *THAT* BILL OF GOODS.

MY MOTHER HELPED ME THERE, REST HER SOUL. I THINK THEY KILLED HER WHEN THEY FOUND OUT WHAT SHE WAS TEACHING ME.

LOOK! THESE AREN'T *HAPPY* MEMORIES FOR ME! I WAS RAISED BY *MONSTERS*-- MONSTERS IN HUMAN FORM! AND I NEVER SAW MY *MOTHER* AGAIN, EITHER. ALL I *HAVE* FROM HER IS THAT AMULET I WEAR WITH MY COSTUME!

WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS TO ME? I'M SUPPOSED TO BE *STRONG!*

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I JUST HAVE TO *KNOW!*

THERE'S EVIL HERE SOMEWHERE, FLARE. I CAN FEEL IT GROWING. BUT IT ISN'T COMING FROM YOU.

BUT YOU *STILL* HAVEN'T TOLD ME ABOUT *PHILIP!* YOU SAID THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM TO THE 'DEVIL?'

WHAT DID THEY *MEAN* BY THAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

THEY SAID WHAT MY BROTHER AND I DID WAS A *SIN*, BUT THEY SAID IT WAS MORE *HIS* SIN THAN MINE. HE *MADE* HIMSELF BEAUTIFUL TO ME.

HE *MADE* ME LOVE HIM.

MADE YOU?

YES! HE *MADE* ME! I WAS IN *CHARGE* OF HIM, I COULD *HURT* HIM. BADLY! HE WAS *SENSITIVE* TO LIGHT.

SO HE MADE ME *LOVE* HIM. A FITTING VENGEANCE, HE THOUGHT.

HE COULD CHANGE HIS SHAPE, AND HE MADE HIMSELF *BEAUTIFUL* TO ME!

CHANGE HIS SHAPE...

HE USED TO PLAY GAMES WITH US, CHANGING HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE *ME*.

AND HE *BECAME* ME, AND HE *ROUND OUT* WHAT COULD MAKE ME LOVE. AND HE *USED* THAT KNOWLEDGE TO... EH?

RRRUMBLE

NO!

BOOOM

WHAT IS IT? AN EARTHQUAKE!

THAT'S *NOT* WHAT IT IS!

ROSE? WHAT'S UP?

RRR?

MAYBE EVERYTHING, MARKSMAN!

YOU REMEMBER WHY WE HAD TO KEEP THE COMPLETE HELL-FIRE CROWN OUT OF *DEMON'S* HANDS?

IT WASN'T *JUST* BECAUSE *DEMON* IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCULT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

AND IT WASN'T *JUST* BECAUSE THE HELLFIRE CROWN COULD BE THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCULT *ARTIFACT* ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

IT WAS BECAUSE OF *HER!*

AH! AND YOU MUST BE *ROSE!*

I KNOW MY ENEMIES WHEN I SEE THEM, CHILD!

AND WHILE I MAY HAVE *SLEPT* A LONG TIME, MY POWER TO *DESTROY* THEM RE-MAINS UNDIMINISHED!

CHALLENGE ME, AND I'LL *DESTROY YOU,* TOO!

MRPH!

RCK! RCK!

RRRRRRRR

FIDO! NO!

WHAT IS THIS?

ACK!

THIS INDIGNITY, I WILL NOT TOLERATE!

FRRSSHH

PUT HIM DOWN.

MARKSMAN! PLEASE!

YOU REALLY *DON'T* UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

FZZASSH

I AM HATRED *INCARNATE!*

I AM *MALACE!*

ACK!

AND I CANNOT BE DESTROYED!

WHAM WHAM

WOULD YOU CARE TO TRY?

NO.

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I THINK WE'D RATHER JUST...

DAMN! SHE SLAGGED MY GUN!

NO!

BOOM

ROSE!

THIS IS ROSE, THE DECEITFUL ONE! WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE? THE LIGHT ELEMENTAL?

YOU TELL ME!

IMPUDENT MAN!

IF I DIDN'T FIND YOU SO ATTRACTIVE...

ZAP

WHUMP

SORRY, LADY. I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT THE SOLDIER IN ME TELLS ME IT'S TIME TO BEAT A STRATEGIC RETREAT!

YOU DARE?

YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS! DO YOU HEAR ME?

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

FLARE!

DAMMIT, GIRL, WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M RIGHT HERE!

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE? I...

ZAP

YEOW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

ZAP

ESCAPING.

CRASH

OH. BUT YOU CAN'T FLY!

SO YOU DO IT!

OH. RIGHT.

HOW'S THAT?

OOF!

BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE WE ESCAPING FROM?

THAT.

I WILL KILL YOU.

I SEE.

EEK!

DIE!

I DON'T LIKE DARKNESS!

KA BLAM

AND NOW I'M NOT PLAYING GAMES!

OOH. THAT FEELS NICE.

FLARE! LISTEN TO ME. WE NEED TO GET HELP! ARCANE'S OUT OF ACTION. ROSE IS DOWN. AND ICE-STAR IS...

ICESTAR'S UP THERE.

YES!

BUT... SHALL I CATCH HIM THEN?

WHY DO YOU PRETEND TO BE SO DIM?

ACK!

WHY DO YOU PRETEND TO BE SO SMART?

THAT'S IT! RUN AWAY, YOU PATHETIC "HEROES!"

I KNOW YOUR KIND! I'VE FOUGHT YOU BEFORE! YOU'LL BE BACK!

AND WHEN YOU'RE BACK, I'LL BE WAITING.

AND SHE BEGINS TO CRY...

MEANWHILE...

QUIETLY NOW...IT WOULDN'T DO TO MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE.

HE'S STILL ALIVE, ANYWAY.

I WONDER IF THAT'S GOOD OR BAD?

YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU APPEAR TO BE.

NUTS.

YEAH? WHAT OF IT?

I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU MISERABLE, PATHETIC WORM!

DEMON MASTER, INDEED! YOU ARE AN OVERREACHING AMBITIOUS, ARROGANT LITTLE...

YOU DON'T SCARE ME!

MUCH.

I HAVE THE CROWN!

I SEE. AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO ABOUT THAT?

WE COULD WORK TOGETHER!

I FIND YOU TO BE A MOST COMPELLING CREATURE.

YOU ARE STRONG, AND POWERFUL, AND YOU POSSESS BEAUTY BEYOND COMPARE!

DO I?

YOU DO!

IF YOU LIKE, I SHALL CLAIM YOU FOR MY MATE!

IDIOT!

WHAM

WHO DO YOU THINK I *AM*, BOY? SOME CALLOW *SCHOOLGIRL*, TO BE BOUGHT WITH A *LINE* THAT WAS OLD WHEN I WAS YOUNG?

I HAVE KNOWN MORE *MEN* IN MY TIME--MADE *LOVE* TO MORE *HEROES*--THAN YOU COULD *EVER* IMAGINE! AND I AM *NOT* ABOUT TO BE *SEDUCED* BY A PRETTY *CHILD*!

BUT YOU *AMUSE* ME... AND YOU *ARE* VERY PRETTY.

SO I *WON'T* KILL YOU.

INSTEAD, I'LL *GIVE* YOU WHAT YOU WANT.

TIK TIK TIK TIK

AND IF YOU CAN *PROVE* TO ME THAT YOU'RE *WORTHY* OF MY ATTENTIONS, PERHAPS I'LL *CONSIDER* WHAT YOU *SUGGEST*.

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, MALICE!

I *PROMISE* YOU I'LL *DELIVER* YOU THE CHAMPIONS' *HEADS*!

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN *HEADS*,

MANY MEN HAVE MADE *ME* PROMISES.

ALL OF *THEM* ARE *DEAD*.

CHAPTER 10 -- "THE OTHER SIDE OF HATE; THE HIGH PRICE OF LOVE!"

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? I'VE RUN OUT OF COSTUMES.

I'M STUCK WEARING THIS!

I THINK IT SUITS YOU.

I'M AN ICESTAR GROUPIE

AND I THINK A BROKEN NOSE WOULD SUIT YOU!

BLAST IT, NIGHTWIND, PROFESSOR MUBATE ISN'T IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! I DON'T CARE WHAT HE'S PLANNING TO BLOW UP!

I WOULDN'T CALL YOU IF THIS WEREN'T AN EMERGENCY!

OH, NO! NOT NIGHTWIND!

I'M NO [illegible]OCESTAR GROUPIE

I LOOK PRETTY GOOD ON THERE, DON'T I?

HANDS OFF, BLUE BOY!

I'VE TRIED TO CONTACT SEVERAL PEOPLE. I CAN'T REACH GIANT: TRANS-POWER DOESN'T ANSWER. DOVE IS ON HIS WAY, BUT IT'S A LONG FLIGHT!

NIGHTWIND HAS SKILLS WE'LL NEED!

WE'VE LOST OUR MYSTICS.

AND, MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, THIS BUSINESS WITH DEMON AND DARK MALICE IS ONE THREAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT WITH BRUTE FORCE ALONE!

AH, BUT BRUTE FORCE AND IGNORANCE! NOW THAT WOULD BE AN UNBEATABLE COM-BINATION!

WHAT!?

FOXBAT!

AT YOUR SERVICE, TOOTS!

HEARD YOU NEEDED HELP! SO HERE I AM!

HELP? FROM YOU? I'LL BREAK YOUR HEAD FIRST!

FLARE! WAIT! LET'S HEAR HIM OUT!

I'D RATHER BREAK HIS HEAD.

COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU, TOO, BLUE-EYES. BUT I FIGURE SOMEBODY'S ALREADY BEATEN ME TO IT.

AND WHO WANTS USED GOODS, EH?

OH, NO...

FOXBAT, THAT *DOES* IT!

I'M AN

WOO!*

I'M PISSED!

*WITH APOLOGIES TO DON SIMPSON.

WHAM
SMASH
CRUNCH
SHOULD WE STOP HER?
MAYBE...
YOU TAKE BACK EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER SAID ABOUT ME!
DO YOU MEAN ME?
I'M A PERSON, NOT SOME WIND-UP, BARBIE-DOLL TOY!
WHACK
ACK!

THAT'S ENOUGH, FLARE. YOU'RE KILLING HIM.
WHAT?
I THINK SHE HURT ME..

I BLOODY WELL MEANT TO KILL HIM!
YOU OKAY, FREDDY?
YOU GOT A LOOSE CANNON, THERE, STAR. SHE'S CRAZIER THAN I AM.

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP, DO YOU? YOU WILL GET YOURSELF KILLED ONE OF THESE DAYS.
MAYBE SO. [COUGH] BUT I'LL HAVE FUN DOING IT.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO LIVE FOR.

FLARE APOLOGIZES FOR BREAKING YOUR FACE.
SHE SAYS SHE STILL WANTS YOU DEAD.
YEAH? WELL, THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE TO THAT COIN.

BUT I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT!
I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU.

DEMONS GOT GIANT'S WIFE AND KID!

ODDS ARE, BY NOW, THEY'VE GOT GIANT, TOO!

LATER...

IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THIS IS MOSTLY *YOUR* FAULT TO *BEGIN* WITH! NOW YOU TELL ME *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY DID THE *KIDNAPPING*?

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO *UNDERSTAND*?

NO.

BUT IF I HADN'T DONE IT, SOMEONE ELSE *WOULD* HAVE.

I'VE HEARD THAT ARGUMENT BEFORE. IT DIDN'T WASH AT NUREMBERG, EITHER.

YEAH? WELL, I'M NOT ON TRIAL!

NOT YET, ANYWAY.

LOOK! AT LEAST I MANAGED TO KEEP 'EM FROM GETTING *HURT*!

EASY, FREDDY. FLARE DID A *NUMBER* ON YOU. YOU'RE *NOT* IN GOOD SHAPE.

SO FROM WHAT YOU TELL US, WE CAN EXPECT AN ATTACK *TONIGHT*.

DEMONMASTER'S GOT THE HOTS FOR THIS *MALICE* CHICK. THINKS HE HAS TO *PROVE* HIMSELF TO HER!

"AND MUCH AS I DON'T *LIKE* YOU GUYS, I'VE *NEVER* WANTED TO SEE ANY OF *YOU* GET KILLED."

OOH! HOW I *HATE* THAT MAN!

IF ONLY HE WEREN'T SO... SO...

...UNAUSSTEHLICH?

I'M AN AGGSTAR

INSUFFERABLE. YES. THAT'S WHAT HE IS.

AND A CROOK!

FLARE!

GIANT?

I HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU...

OH, JIM! I LOVE YOU! I DO!

FLARE, PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. THEY HAVE JOYCE!

YOUR WIFE! I KNOW! FOXBAT SAID SO!

BUT WE'LL SAVE HER. WE'RE CHAMPIONS, AREN'T WE?

NOT ANY MORE, YOU TRAITOROUS BITCH!

AARR!

FIZZ-ZLAP!

WELL DONE, MIGHTY ONE! SHE NEVER SUSPECTED A THING!

AND, AS I PROMISED, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO RAISE A HAND AGAINST YOUR FRIENDS.

GET YOUR HAND OFF ME!

WHAT? YOU DARE?

SHE STILL LIVES! WHY DID YOU NOT KILL HER?

NOBODY DIES! NOT MY WIFE, NOT MY SON, NOBODY! AND ESPECIALLY NOT FLARE!

FORGET THAT, AND THE AGREEMENT'S OFF!

YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH THE LITTLE TRAMP!

I HAD SUSPECTED AS MUCH... BUT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU...

ENOUGH! SHE HAS THAT EFFECT ON MEN. I KNOW! BUT THERE ARE OTHER FISH TO FRY, AND THERE IS ONE MORE TRAITOR TO BE FLUSHED OUT!

COME, GIANT! WE TWO WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH THEM!

HE LOVES ME...

ENOUGH TO BETRAY YOU!

THERE ARE NO HEROES, GIRL. THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS CHAMPIONS!

YOU WERE BRED FOR POWER, LITTLE WHORE! AND FOR PASSION, NOT FOR PRIDE!

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

IT IS TRUE!

YOU KNOW IT IS TRUE!

YOU HAVE NO PRIDE!

WHUMP

I COULD BREAK YOUR NECK! I COULD SLAY YOU NOW, AS I COULD HAVE DEALT WITH ROSE AND DOCTOR ARCANE!

BUT I WON'T!

"I THINK I WILL MAKE YOU SUFFER BEFORE I MAKE YOU DIE!"

SO IT'S AGREED, THEN? I HELP YOU AGAINST DEMON. YOU HELP ME WITH THE COURTS?

CAN'T PROMISE YOU ANYTHING MORE, FREDDY. YOU'VE DONE AN AWFUL LOT OF CRIMES IN YOUR TIME.

MORE THAN A LOT.

BUT IT'S ALL BEEN GOOD, CLEAN FUN! I FIGURE... UH-OH.

FOXBAT! I WAS TOLD YOU'D BE HERE!

RIGHT!

BUT I'M NOT THERE ANY MORE, TALL-SOCKS!

FRZZZZAP

COME ON, GUYS! IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU! HE'S NOT ON OUR SIDE! AND THAT BOLT OF BLACKNESS MEANS HE'S NOT ALONE!

POP

POP

POP

LISTEN, BIG BUDDY! IF JOYCE IS REALLY IN TROUBLE...

POP

SORRY, 'STAR!

POP

POP

POP

OOF!

I'M *NOT* TAKING RISKS WITH MY WIFE!

POP

POP

THINK, GIANT! THIS ISN'T GOING TO *HELP* JOYCE!

NO!

TREACHEROUS *MADMAN!* I'VE MADE NO PROMISES REGARDING YOU!

YOU CAN *DIE!*

UH-OH!

SSSS

NOBODY DIES!

FOOL!

WHAM

DO YOU THINK I *NEED* YOU TO DEFEAT THESE THREE?

FLARE WAS THE ONLY ONE I FEARED, FOR THE DARK FIRES OF *HELL* ARE MINE TO *COMMAND*, THROUGH THE POWER OF THIS *CROWN* AND THESE *STONES*, BUT *HERS* IS THE POWER OF *LIGHT*.

AND *SHE* HAS BEEN *DEALT WITH*, THANKS TO *YOU!*

I FEAR *NOTHING* NOW! MALICE HAS *EVEN* ME IN HER POWER --THE POWER OF *HATE!* AND I WILL LAY THE *FOUR* OF YOU, IF NEED BE, AT HER *FEET!*

I WILL EARN THE LOVE OF A GODDESS!

FOR NOW I AM LIKE UNTO A GOD!

NEXT ISSUE: GIANT VERSUS THE MASTER OF DEMON IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH! BE HERE FOR THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION AND LEARN WHY THESE HEROES CAN RIGHTFULLY BE CALLED CHAMPIONS!

For your CHAMPIONS campaign . . .

The MARKSMAN

based on the character created by Bruce Harlick

Real Name: Donald Henderson
Place of birth: San Mateo, California
Marital status: Single
Known relatives: Father (Roland Henderson, whereabouts unknown), mother deceased
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 180 lbs.
Age: Probably in his mid-50's, though he doesn't look a day older than 35
Eyes: Gray
Hair: Black

VAL	CHAR	Cost	Cost	Powers	END
15	STR	5	96	80-pt Gadget Pool	
30	DEX	60	5	Gadgeteering ≤15	
18	CON	16	30	Martial Arts	
14	BODY	8	10	Acrobatics ≤15	
28	INT	18	5	Detective Work ≤15	
14	EGO	8	5	Climbing ≤12	
18	PRE	8	5	Security Systems ≤15	
18	COM	4	5	Disguise ≤15	
6	PD	3	2	+1" Running	
4	ED	0	20	+2 general levels	
6	SPD	20	10	+2 w/guns	
7	REC	0	15	3D6 Luck	
40	END	2	12	Scientist: Sonics ≤13, Electrical Engineering ≤11, Chemistry ≤11 Mechanical Engineering ≤13, Computer Science ≤11	
31	STUN	0	9	Linguist: fluent French, German, w/literacy	

100	+ Disadvantages
10	2D6 Unluck
20	Overconfident
15	Hatred of killing
8	Irrational curiosity
8	Feels he must prove his worth as a hero
25	Berserk ≤8, Recover ≤8 when friends are hurt
30	Hunted ≤8 by Eurostar
25	Hunted ≤8 by DEMON
13	Hunted ≤8 by VIPER
10	Hunted ≤8 by Foxbat
5	Competent DNPC ≤8 (Roland Henderson)
112	Experience Spent

CHAR Cost 152 + 229 | Power Cost = | Total Cost 381 = | Disadvantage Total

Physical attributes: The Marksman is an ideal physical specimen. He has amazingly quick reflexes, and has trained himself to the peak of perfection in both mind and body.
Powers: Aside from the youthful longetivity that is the birthright of the Henderson male, the Marksman has no special super-powers. Rumor has it, however, that in his youth he was subjected to an experimental process which may have enabled him to *realize* his full potential at a very early age.
Weaknesses: The Marksman's great psychological weakness is his overriding need to prove himself in battle against the forces of evil. This drive often leads him into danger, heedless of the consequences, and has on more than one occasion almost caused his death.

Origin: Long before he became the Marksman, Donald Henderson was a professional soldier. He was too young to fight in World War II, but he served his country in Korea and Vietnam, and fought in several different bush wars on four different continents. Only recently did he don the garb of the Marksman, in order to disguise himself when he discovered that his father, Roland Henderson, had involved his company, Henderson Electronics, in dealings with DEMON. As the Marksman, with some assistance from Iceatar and Rose, Donald succeeded in breaking up that arrangement, only to discover to his chagrin that his father had not merely been cooperating with DEMON, but had also been trying to feed the evil organization enough rope to *expose* it as the world-devouring threat that it is. As a result of Donald's actions, Roland Henderson's reputation was ruined and he retired from active participation in the battle against injustice, going on an extended vacation and leaving the resources of Henderson Electronics in his son's hands.
Background: Due to his many years as a soldier, the Marksman has far more experience than any of the other Champions, but he hasn't worn the *costume* of the Marksman for very long. Though he takes no great pains to conceal his true identity, very few people yet realize that the Marksman is Donald Henderson.
Game Mechanics: On the opposite page, we've provided game stats for several of the gadgets the Marksman is fond of using. You should feel free to design your own, but always remember that the Marksman's experiences as a soldier have made killing anathema to him. He'll kill if he has no other choice, but he favors weapons such as his sonic rifle, which can be adjusted so that an enemy can be rendered unconscious without doing him bodily harm.

THE MARKSMAN (a.k.a. Donald Henderson) — Phases: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12

OCV:	10	PD:	6	PER Roll:	15	Running:	7"
DCV:	10	rPD:	0	DEX Roll:	15		
ECV:	5	ED:	4	INT Roll:	15	Swimming:	2"
		rED:	0	EGO Roll:	12		

Don't forget to use his levels

The Marksman will often wear protective gear out of his Gadget Pool to add to his defenses

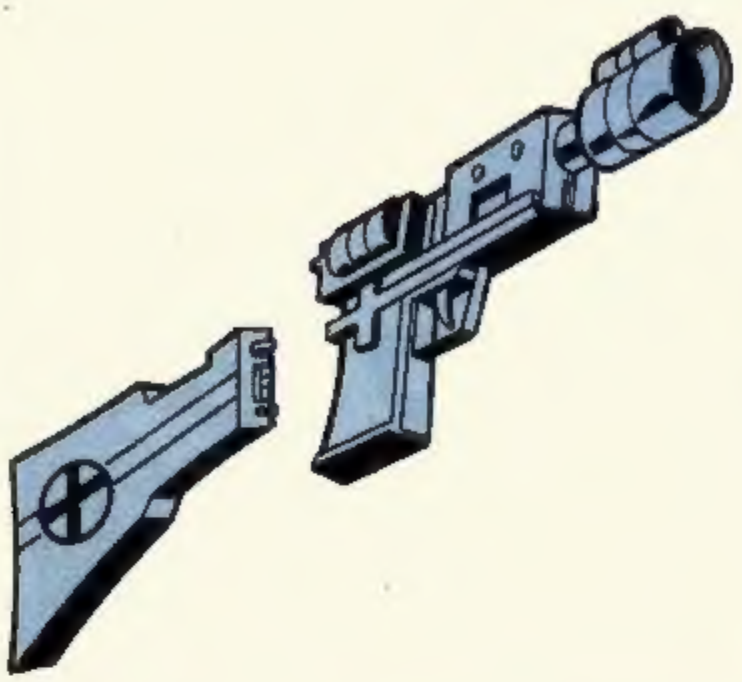
END: 40 | STUN: 31 | BODY: 14

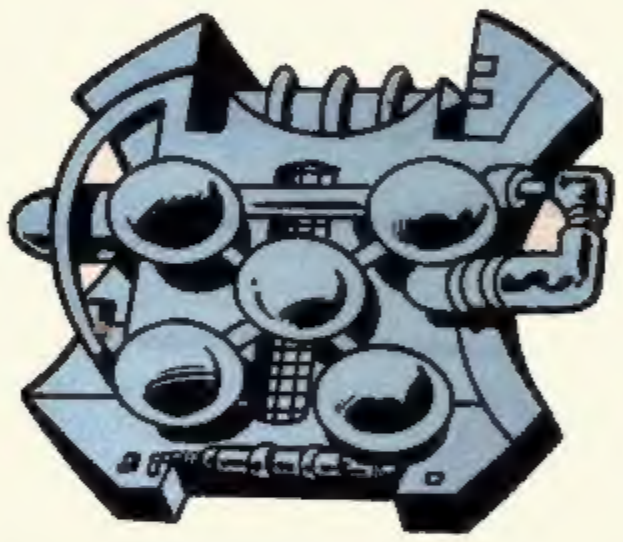
SONIC PISTOL AND RIFLE

The Marksman normally carries his powerful sonic rifle in a knocked-down pistol mode. By attaching the companion barrel and stock (the latter containing a large reserve battery), the more powerful model is available. The Marksman's rifle may be 'strained,' I.e. fired at greater than normal energy levels. There is a chance the weapon's circuitry will burn out if this is done. If the weapon is used in a burst of fire rather than a single shot at these levels, burnout becomes very likely.

•PISTOL: 6D6 Ranged Physical attack, selective fire, x8 END battery, recharges at 1 point per minute when plugged into a common electrical outlet, OAF. Real Cost 30, Active Cost 60.

•RIFLE: 12D6 Ranged Physical attack, extends range mod from 1/3" to 1/5", x16 END battery, burnout on 15 if used at over 12D6, recharges at 1 point per minute when plugged into a common electrical outlet, OAF. Real Cost 52, Active Cost 140.





THE SONIC RESONATOR

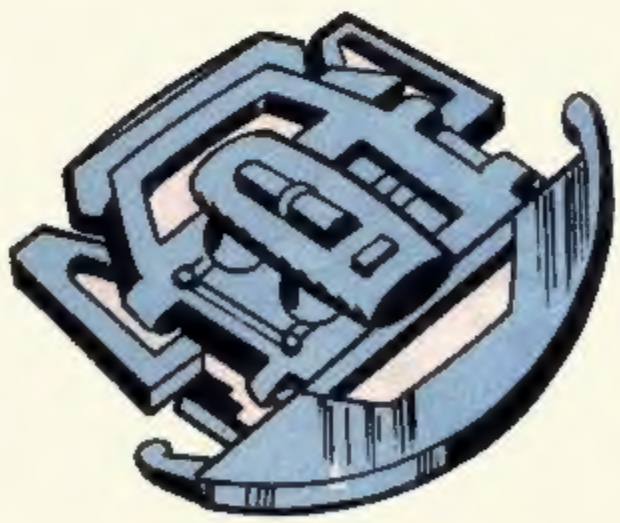
The Sonic Resonator is a device made up of several small node generators connected by cables. Once attached to an object (either with the built-in magnets or sticky tape), the device sets up an ultra-fast sonic vibratory effect, searching out and hitting the target's resonation threshold, severely (and momentarily) weakening the object. This device is used to let the Marksman smash through walls and doors, or to weaken machinery that needs to be destroyed.

•2D6 PD Drain, 2-segment delay, autofire, 10 charges, requires 1 phase to set up, works only vs 'rigid' non-defending targets, OAF. Real Cost 9, Active Cost 30.

THE AUTO-STOPPER

This small device, when attached to the body of a car, focuses an intense field of microwaves through the engine block, where it causes interference with the alternator. The device only works on low-powered alternators, but will work on most cars and many trucks, though not on aircraft or water-going vessels. The device is not ordinarily dangerous to people, but it could short out a pacemaker, so the Marksman is careful how he uses it. It's usually thrown at rapidly departing vehicles driven by villains attempting to escape.

•8D6 MAX drain (see the Vehicle rules in *Champions II*), 6-segment delay, ranged, 1 charge, x2 END Battery, OAF, usable only on metallic vehicles with low-power unshielded alternators. Real Cost 8, Active Cost 26.



Weapon designs courtesy of Andrew M. Robinson